



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**Honorable George E. Brown, Jr.
Chairman, Subcommittee on Transportation,
Aviation and Materials
Committee on Science and Technology
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515**

Dear Mr. Chairman:

**Thank you for your comments regarding the Administration's
opposition to H.R. 2889, the Computer Security Research and
Training Act of 1985.**

**I too would view as highly inappropriate an organizational
structure wherein military agencies would be in a position to
dictate to the civil agencies matters of both civil and military
concern. However, the structures of neither the Systems Security
Steering Group nor the National Telecommunications and Information
Systems Security Committee (NTISSC) provide for a military majority.
The Steering Group is composed of the Secretaries of State, Defense,
and Treasury, the Directors of Central Intelligence and the Office
of Management and Budget, and the Attorney General. Of the 21
NTISSC members, nine are military. It is, therefore, incorrect to
describe either structure as military in character.**

**We have found that both the civil and military departments
work well together when there is a matter of common importance.
Telecommunications and information systems security is clearly
such a matter. Both the civil and military sector deal with clas-
sified material, and both deal with that large body of sensitive,
but unclassified, information, the loss of which could adversely
affect the national interest. Examples of this type of information
include, but are not limited to: regulatory, financial, economic,
law enforcement, privacy, and mission critical; none of these are
exclusively civil or military in nature.**

**Inasmuch as the policies, standards, and techniques for
protecting classified information are substantially applicable to
sensitive information as well, regardless of their civil or
military nature, the Administration views as duplicative and
wasteful separate telecommunications and information systems
security structures for civil and military agencies.**

If I may be of further assistance in clarifying the Administration's position on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,